

Pilot Firms Share Their Experiences with E-Filing

For months, May, Browning & May, LLP and Worst, Fitzgerald & Stover, PLLC have been filing court documents with Twin Falls County electronically. Both firms volunteered to help the Idaho Supreme Court test Idaho's new e-filing technology.

"It's great to be part of history and moving the courts forward," said Sheri Mitchell office administrator for May, Browning & May.

On January 11, 2016 all attorneys filing cases in Twin Falls County will be required to file electronically. As that date gets closer many are curious as to how the new system works and how electronic filing impacts the way people work.

So far, both firms have found e-filing to be convenient and say it is helping save them time and get court documents back faster.

"There were hiccups in the beginning, you have to expect that with a new system" said April O'Berg, office manager for Worst, Fitzgerald & Stover. "We have had some rejected filings and we have learned from them. For a period of time, we were in contact with the Idaho Supreme Court almost daily. They have been very helpful and now a lot of the hiccups we saw in the beginning are not there anymore."

O'Berg says they've worked closely with the courts to identify ways to improve the system for attorneys all over the state. Changes have already been made to streamline the e-filing process.

Attorneys at May, Browning & May are also enjoying the flexibility of being able to file cases any time of the day, even when the courts are closed.

"To be able to immediately communicate with the courts and our clients is huge," said Mitchell. "You are eliminating a three to five day process. It is going to streamline so many things for us."

Both Mitchell and O'Berg say it took time to feel confident using the new system. While e-filing is still optional until January 11, O'Berg recommends attorneys start using it now.

"Get on early and practice early," said O'Berg. "The process to set up an account takes time. Do it now so you are not on a deadline left wondering how to get it done."

Tyler Technologies, the Idaho Supreme Court's partner in modernizing the state's judicial system, will help any attorney set up their e-filing account. For assistance call 1-800-297-5377 during normal business hours.

The Idaho Supreme Court is also holding in-person trainings on how to e-file January 7 and 8 at the Twin Falls County West Administration Building. Attorneys who are unable to attend one of those trainings can take a free online seminar anytime through Tyler Technologies. For more details on those trainings, or to register, attorneys should visit <http://icourt.idaho.gov/efileoverview>.